

Message Text

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17

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 /075 W

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P 150755Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3433

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI PRIORITY

JCS/NMCC WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORVA PRIORITY

CINCLANTFLT NORVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: "CISCO TWO" - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ABDUCTION

REF: ASMARA 0584

1. KAGNEW TRANSMITTER SITE, TRACT D, 12 KLMS SOUTHWEST OF ASMARA
CONSISTS OF TWO SEPARATE BUILDINGS. THESE ARE THE TRANSMITTER
BUILDING AND THE POWER PLANT. WHAT HAPPENS IN ONE BUILDING NOT
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READILY DETECTABLE FROM THE OTHER.

2. ADDITIONAL DEBRIEFING OF ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES AT TRACT D WHO WERE NOT SEIZED PRODUCED FOLLOWING AMPLIFICATION AND CORRECTION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL. AT APPROX. 1045 HRS LOCAL, ONE MAN ARMED WITH A "RIFLE" WALKED INTO POWER PLANT, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS FROM THE PLF, AND ORDERED POWER PLANT TECHNICIANS TO STOP WHAT THEY WERE DOING, AND NOT TO MOVE. AFTER A SHORT TIME (8 MINS) HE LEFT, HAVING HARMED NO ONE. HOWEVER, WHEN ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES, 1/2 HR LATER WENT TO TRANSMITTER BUILDING, THEY FOUND IT DESERTED. THE TWO AMERICANS, CAMPBELL AND HARRELL, HAD DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH FOUR

ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES (TWO TRANSMITTER TECHNICIANS, ONE GATE GUARD, AND ONE JANITOR). THE ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES REMAINING ON THE SITE INCLUDED THE THREE POWER PLANT TECHNICIANS AND ONE SPECIAL GUARD WHO HAD BEEN PATROLING THE ANTENNA FIELD WHILE THE ABDUCTION TOOK PLACE. SEVERAL LOCKERS IN THE TRANSMITTER BUILDING HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO AND SOME FOOD STOLEN. EQUIPMENT EVIDENTLY NOT TOUCHED, BUT TWO TELEPHONE LINES CUT. RADIOS USED FOR LOCAL TRACT TO TRACT COMMUNICATIONS UNHARMED BUT NOT USED BY ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES. THE TRUCK WHICH WAS STOLEN AND IN WHICH THE KIDNAP VICTIMS WERE TAKEN AWAY HAD NORMALLY BEEN USED BY CAMPBELL TO TRAVEL TO TRACT D.

3. AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE ABOVE, WE HAVE NO EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE ACTUAL ABDUCTION AND WILL NOT HAVE UNTIL ONE OR MORE OF THOSE TAKEN HAVE BEEN RELEASED. OF THE ETHIOPIANS WHO WERE SEIZED, ONE IS KNOWN TO HAVE AN UNCLE IN THE PLF AND ANOTHER IS THE SECOND RANKING FUNCTIONARY IN THE COMMUNICATIONS LABOR UNION. THESE FACTS ARE PROBABLY IRRELEVANT TO THE SEIZURE AS ANY GIVEN ERITREAN HAS AN UNCLE IN EITHER THE ELF OR THE PLF, AND ALL KAGNEW LOCAL EMPLOYEES ARE ACTIVE IN THEIR UNIONS.

4. SHOULD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS OF THE KIDNAPPING BECOME AVAILABLE IT WILL BE REPORTED PROMPTLY. AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY ON THE INCIDENT.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
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